

Roxane Gay

Quotes

*Writing, People, Thinking, World, Believe, Fiction, Trying, Feminism, Mean,
Men, Reading, Want, Needs, Years, Feminist, Fighting, Challenges, Past,
Character, Emotional*

I would rather be a bad feminist than no feminist at all.

~Roxane Gay

So many of us are reaching out, hoping someone out there will grab our hands and remind us we are not as alone as we fear.

~Roxane Gay

Some women being empowered does not prove the patriarchy is dead. It proves that some of us are lucky.

~Roxane Gay

My fiction is a very accurate reflection of the world we live in. Certainly, in some stories, that reflection is amplified but America elected a man who enjoys grabbing women by their pussies.

~Roxane Gay

Nemeses aren't born. They are made.

~Roxane Gay

Just write and love what you're writing. And if you're not loving what you're writing, take a look at why and fix that.

~Roxane Gay

People do terrible things all the time, but we don't regularly disown our humanity. We disavow the terrible things.

~Roxane Gay

You have to be consistent. You have to be yourself. You have to be committed to what you're doing. You have to not be afraid to be ambitious.

~Roxane Gay

Writing, at its best and truest, can offer solace and salvation for both readers and writers.

~Roxane Gay

I am a bad feminist and a good woman. I am trying to become better in how I think and say and do - without abandoning what makes me human.

~Roxane Gay

Violence is not the answer but neither is peace.

~Roxane Gay

So often feminism is built up as this thing where you have to be perfect. You have to be consistent and you can't ever deviate. That's just not realistic.

~Roxane Gay

When you can't find someone to follow, you have to find a way to lead by example.

~Roxane Gay

We have this cultural obsession with work and productivity as if we're better people if we don't stop and take some time for ourselves.

~Roxane Gay

If people cannot be flawed in fiction there's no place left for us to be human.

~Roxane Gay

With my writing, I generally just pretend that no one's reading it. I allow myself that delusion so that I can write the things that I write.

~Roxane Gay

I believe feminism is grounded in supporting the choices of women even if we wouldn't make certain choices for ourselves.

~Roxane Gay

Books are often far more than just books.

~Roxane Gay

Twitter is my happy place. I am not there to overthink 140 characters.

~Roxane Gay

It is deeply unfair to task writers of color with unique responsibilities that we don't assign to all writers.

~Roxane Gay

I am trying so very hard to stay in the moment despite the ferocity of my ambition.

~Roxane Gay

I approach most things in life with a dangerous level of confidence to balance my generally low self-esteem.

~Roxane Gay

It's gut instinct that helps me determine how to write a story. I love the surreal because I am faced with the challenge of making the unbelievable believable. That challenge is thrilling.

~Roxane Gay

Sex offers incredible narrative opportunities and so many emotions are tied up in sex. Also, I mean, the erotic is always a fun creative space.

~Roxane Gay

Truth can hurt so very much.

~Roxane Gay

I'll learn how to rest, though. I can still learn new tricks.

~Roxane Gay

I don't read the comments anymore, unless they are moderated. Which

is not to say censored, but I don't need to read someone saying, "You're ugly."

~Roxane Gay

The notion that I should be fine with the status quo even if I am not wholly affected by the status quo is repulsive.

~Roxane Gay

I've always wanted to be a writer. I've been writing since I was probably four years old - it was nonsense, but it was still my little attempts at being a storyteller.

~Roxane Gay

Fiction offers escape but it also interrogates the world we live in, whether the past, present or future.

~Roxane Gay

The actual act of writing brings me such pleasure - to tell stories, to engage in cultural criticism, to reflect, to question, all of it is invigorating.

~Roxane Gay

I probably write the same story a hundred different ways. I suppose right now I am looking for the 101st different way to write that same story. And the 102nd, and 103rd and 111th and 133rd.

~Roxane Gay

Readers need to stop assuming characters are white if race isn't explicitly defined.

~Roxane Gay

People of color are not under any kind of obligation beyond working hard, doing their best, and learning from their mistakes.

~Roxane Gay

Whiteness is not the default in my fiction.

~Roxane Gay

I don't ever rest. It's a problem and hopefully something I will get a better handle on in the coming years.

~Roxane Gay

My dad is a workaholic so I take after him in this respect.

~Roxane Gay

I don't know that anyone in the United States is taught to rest.

~Roxane Gay

What is it like to be connected to someone you can never get away from, for better or worse? I love trying to answer that question.

~Roxane Gay

I am interested in intense, unbreakable emotional connections and oftentimes, such connections can be found between siblings.

~Roxane Gay

I don't want the success to go away. I don't want it to seem unearned.

~Roxane Gay

Good fiction challenges us as much as it entertains and these days, we could do with both of these things.

~Roxane Gay

I can't please everyone. I am trying not to let the pressure consume me.

~Roxane Gay

Feminism is definitely a part of everything I do.

~Roxane Gay

In truth, feminism is flawed because it is a movement powered by people and people are inherently flawed.

~Roxane Gay

I am mortified by my music choices.

~Roxane Gay

There's certainly a portion of my brain that is always tuned to making wry observations about the world, but that portion of my brain was alive and well before Twitter.

~Roxane Gay

I love writing fiction because I can totally lose myself and I get to make up the rules of the world that I'm writing.

~Roxane Gay

Most of my favorite tweets go completely ignored but most of my favorite tweets are probably really lame or inside jokes between me and my [redacted]. See what I did there?

~Roxane Gay

I am trying to keep growing and improving as a writer.

~Roxane Gay

I never imagined any of the success I am currently experiencing.

~Roxane Gay

I like what the internet offers: the ability to get people interested in your mind, and have a chance if you're not conventionally attractive.

~Roxane Gay

I never imagined that I would be the kind of person who is recognized when I am out and about just living my life.

~Roxane Gay

Oftentimes, when a woman demands accountability, respect, or consideration, she is crazy or nagging or whatever.

~Roxane Gay

Emotionally, my ambition is not yet sated. Emotionally, I still feel like a kid at the adult's table, yearning for recognition. I'm not sure where this all comes from but it is how I feel.

~Roxane Gay

Violence is a common part of far too many women's lives.

~Roxane Gay

I write toward both idealism and reality - how things are and how I wish they could be.

~Roxane Gay

I read constantly because there is so much to learn from the writing in the world.

~Roxane Gay

I look at my older writing to see where my weaknesses are and then I try to address those weaknesses and make new mistakes.

~Roxane Gay

The more successful I get, the more I am reminded that in the minds of a great many people I will never be anything more than my body. No matter what I accomplish, I will be fat, first and foremost.

~Roxane Gay

My dream was to write a book and see it published. I didn't dare imagine anything beyond that, so, I'm trying to keep my head on my shoulders.

~Roxane Gay

Most of the time, writing is a lot of fun, and not a small amount of self-medication.

~Roxane Gay

I write because I love doing it.

~Roxane Gay

We assume whiteness is the default because whiteness, historically, has been the default. This is one of the many reasons diverse representation matters so much. We need to change the default.

~Roxane Gay

Intellectually, I know I am worthy, however arbitrary a thing worthiness is, and have always been worthy.

~Roxane Gay

I write for myself, first and foremost and I also write for people, mostly women, who just want to be seen and heard and all too often aren't.

~Roxane Gay

If I cannot rest and relax, all the work I do is for naught.

~Roxane Gay

The past is always with you. Some people want to be protected from this truth.

~Roxane Gay

Diversity in literature is, in part, about representation - who is telling the stories and who stories are told about.

~Roxane Gay

When you look past the image, a celebrity is merely a person you know nothing about.

~Roxane Gay

My tweeting is cool and calm unless I am riled up about something and then I just surrender to the fury of my fingers.

~Roxane Gay

I see my tweets as a current joining a bunch of other currents in the world's craziest ocean.

~Roxane Gay

When I write on Twitter, I do other things: I'm working, grading, or reading, and I'm procrastinating, and I'll pop on Twitter and be like, "Hey, what's up? Yogurt's delicious."

~Roxane Gay

Feminism has neglected the needs of woman of color and people of color in general. But I don't think it means that we should overlook feminism as having nothing valuable to contribute.

~Roxane Gay

I love romantic comedies. I know how terrible they are, but I love them! And I don't think that makes me less of a feminist.

~Roxane Gay

When feminism falls short of our expectations, we decide the problem is with feminism rather than with the flawed people who act in the name of the movement.

~Roxane Gay

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